

STATE OF MARYLAND

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

**BILL NO:** SB 184

**COMMITTEE:** EHE

**POSITION:** Support

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**TITLE:** Environment – Brominated Flame Retardants –  
Decabrominated Diphenyl Ether - Prohibition

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This bill prohibits the manufacturing, processing, selling or distributing of products that contain more than a certain amount decabrominated diphenyl ether, a flame retardant containing bromine.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** Support

Brominated flame retardants have increasingly been found in the environment and in human tissue, including in Chesapeake Bay fish. Although specific health thresholds have not been established, these compounds are sufficiently similar to other compounds with demonstrated health impacts and are both persistent and bioaccumulative, that caution is warranted. Two of three commonly used compounds have already been banned. The delay in banning the deca form was based largely on the concern that a less harmful alternative had not been identified. The State of Washington, after two years of study has identified resorcinol bis diphenyl phosphate (RDP) as a safer alternative, and noted that design changes such as inherently flame resistant fabrics can be used in many instances when the alternative compound is not applicable.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,**  
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